

# The IGUANA

Volume 14, No. 24



December 13, 2002

## MEDEL does its best MASH impression



By **Spc. George Kyriakeas**  
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Office

The Medical Element performed a live surgery behind their hospital here, but this was no back-alley operation.

The Dec. 4 operation was part of Mobile Surgical Team training that MEDEL has been conducting for the last several weeks, said Capt. Kate Harrison, an Operating Room nurse with MEDEL.

“We’ve been putting up the tents and installing our equipment a couple times a week, but this was our first live surgery,” Harrison said.

The procedure, a scar revision operation, was performed to test the system and practice their field skills, said Capt. Wesley Morgan, with MEDEL.

Scar revision surgery is a simple operation, Morgan said.

“We take an existing scar and we excise it, or cut it out, and seal it up so the scar formation will be smaller,” Harrison explained.

The patient recieved the same quality of care that he would have inside the hospital, Morgan said. “This was still a sterile surgical environment, the only difference is that it was located in the field versus in a hospital.”

MST’s offer a temporary fix, Morgan said.

1st Lt. Joseph Scholl, Medical Element, preps Warrant Officer Charles Overby, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, for scar revision surgery in a field tent behind the hospital.

Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

See **MEDEL** page 3

## Remember Duckhunt?

### FATS offers weapons training without rounds

By **Spc. George Kyriakeas**  
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Office

Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction for a range conducted by ARFOR Tuesday was given Monday with the help of some sophisticated technology available here.

The PMI made use of the Fire Arms Training System to assist in familiarizing qualifiers with their weapons, said Staff Sgt. Micheal Romero, ARFOR.

The FATS allows users to simulate firing a weapon at a computer generated target and background projected onto a computer screen.

“It’s just like going the range,” said Spc. Brandon Smith, ARFOR.

The old weaponeers accomplish the same thing as the FATS, but the new system has some advantages over the old, Romero said. “I don’t feel the old weaponeer is as accurate.”

The new system has a greater realism and freedom of movement, Romero said. “With the old weaponeer, some configurations made some firing positions uncomfortable. This gives you the freedom to actually occupy the correct positions,” he added.

The weapons used with the system have the same weight as the ones firers will use to qualify because they are actual weapons, Romero said.

“This is actually an M-9. The only component that is not real is the bolt, which we have replaced with a laser.”

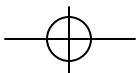
Due to a limited quantity of Carbon Dioxide, used to push out a round simulating laser pulse, only personnel ready to qualify and JSF may use the sys-

See **FATS** page 2

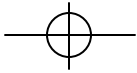


Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Spc. Jacob Neuman, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation regiment, sends some laser blasts at a target in a simulated 9-mm qualification program.







The Chaplain's Corner

The reason for the season

By Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick R. Basal  
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

Just last Monday night I had a strange visitor. This is how it happened. I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door of the front room, and to my surprise, it was Santa Claus himself stepping out from behind the Christmas Tree. He placed his fingers over his lips so I wouldn't cry out.

"What are you doing here..." I started to ask, but the words choked up in my throat as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone – gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know.

As I stood there in my nightshirt bewildered, Santa said, "Teach The Children." My perplexed expression

still showed in the near darkness.

"Teach them the old meaning of Christmas – the meanings that Christmas nowadays has forgotten." "Teach the Children, the star was a heavenly sign of promise long ages ago. God promised a Savior for the world and a sign of the fulfillment of that promise was the great star of the east. The star now reminds us of God's love for mankind and God fulfilling His promise. The countless shining stars at night – one for each man – now show the burning hope of all mankind." Santa gently laid the star upon the fireplace mantle and drew forth from the bag a glittering red Christmas ornament.

"Teach the Children, red is the first color of Christmas. It was first used by the faithful people to remind them of the blood which was shed for all people by the Savior. Christ gave His life and shed His blood that every man might have God's gift to all, eternal life. Red

is deep, intense, vivid. It is the greatest color of all. It is the symbol of the gift of God." As Santa was twisting and pulling another object out of his bag, I heard the kitchen clock begin to strike 12. I wanted to say something, but he went right on.

"Teach the Children," he said as the twisting and pulling suddenly dislodged a small Christmas tree from the depths of the toy bag. He placed it before the mantle and gently hung the red ornament on the big Christmas tree. The deep green of the fir tree was a perfect background for the ornament. Here was the second color of Christmas.

"The pure color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round," he said. "This depicts the everlasting hope of mankind. Green is the youthful, hopeful, abun-

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FATS From page 1



Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Staff Sgt. Brian Donnelly , AFFOR, augments his M-9 PMI with use of the Fire Arms Training System.

tem now, said Romero. He hopes to change this and train members of other MSC's on use of the system, he added. Romero plans to train personnel from each MSC how to start the system, get weapons to register, run the course and analyze a shooter's progress in January, he explained.

Joint Task Force-Bravo recieved the FATS about eight months ago, but only recently have steps been taken to put it to good use, Romero said.

When the system first arrived, they did initial training on it but since then it has not been used, Romero said.

"When I got here they gave me a hand receipt for this equipment, and I came over here to see what it was I

signed for," he said.

"This is an outstanding tool for PMI," Romero said, adding, "We don't want to let it go to waste." Participants in the PMI echoed this sentiment.

"This is an incredible tool to hone skills before live firing," said Staff Sgt. Brian Donnelly, with the Fire Department.

The concept of using lasers to simulate firing might be familiar to some soldiers and airmen, Smith said.

"Remember Duckhunt on the Nintendo? It's Duckhunt all over again."

Have a comment or question? E-mail: George.Kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil

SUBMISSIONS

The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to The Iguana can be sent to the PAO at [george.kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil](mailto:george.kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil) or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, bldg. D-06 . If you have any questions regarding possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676.



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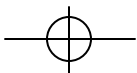
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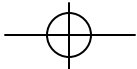
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A message from Hogar de Jaimitos

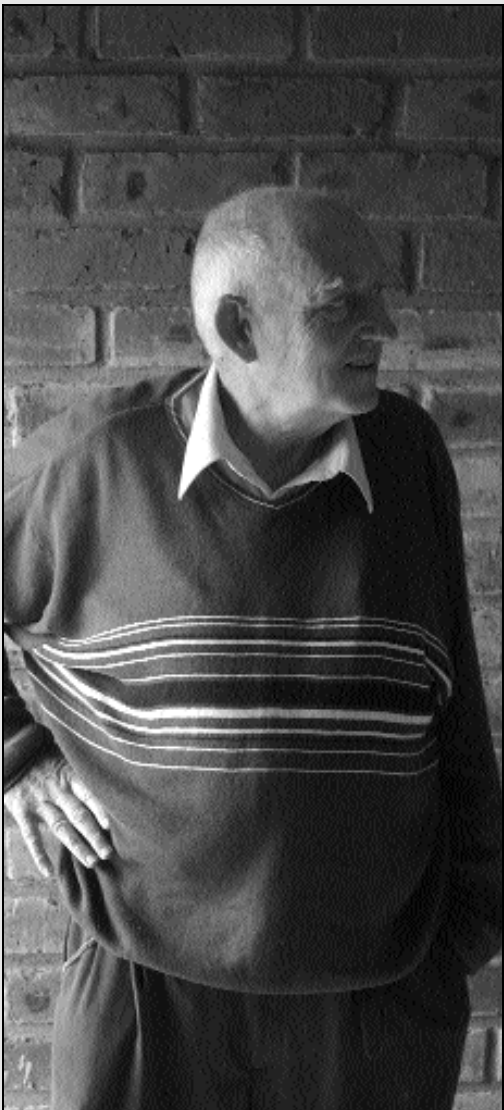


Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Rev. James Brady at his “Hogar de Jaimitos” orphanage in La Paz.

Dear Soldiers and Airmen of Soto Cano,

You brought so much joy and excitement to “Hogar De Jaimitos” with your visit the other day. Your visits make our boys feel that they are important – that they mean something. Of course we deeply and sincerely appreciate your donations, but what means so much more to our boys is your presence and concern. Our boys are so neglected and so few notice them.

We bought a house in the village of Flores. Our new house is in a poor section just like our barrio here in La Granja. We hope to start a soup kitchen there. The house is located near the school. The two teachers will let us know which are the hungry children.

We told all of our boys in our Flores house to get ready for a picnic. We had a sad experience. An 11 year old boy of Flores died suddenly. The family sent for me and asked if I would have a prayer service. So we went to the parent’s house. Our boys all stood about the coffin of the young boy and together, the boys of “Hogar de Jaimitos,” held a little prayer service.

In the evening we came back to “Hogar de Jaimitos,” for a spaghetti dinner. We used the bread you gave us to make garlic toast.

Asking God to bless you and all the others at the Base, I am appreciatively yours,

Rev. James R. Brady  
“Padre Jaimito”

Medel

From page 1



Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

From right: Maj. Aaron Horvath, MEDEL, performs the operation, Maj. Kyu Lund, MEDEL, monitors the patient and Spc. Lisa Brazuk, MEDEL, assists as a scrub technician.

A MST treats patients in the field until they can be moved to a dedicated hospital, Morgan said.

“The purpose is to prevent the loss of life and limb and get the patients stable so they may be airlifted to a higher echelon of medical care.”

Performing actual operations in these conditions is important, Harrison said.

“It shows us how the operation would flow, what happens to the patient in preop, in surgery and in recovery,”

she explained.

“The actual practice shows if the equipment works and if our setup is efficient,” Harrison added.

In training to set up the tent in equipment the MEDEL team has gotten the time down to 75 minutes, Morgan said. “We realistically would like to have it set up and running within one hour of when we hit the ground.”

Have a comment or question? E-mail: George.Kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil

Reason

From page 2

dant color of nature. All the needles point heavenward –symbolic of man's returning thoughts toward heaven. The great green tree has been man's best friend. It has sheltered him, warmed him, made beauty for him, formed his furniture." Santa's eyes were beginning to twinkle now as he stood there. Suddenly I heard a soft tinkling sound. As it grew louder, it seemed like the sound of long ago.

"Teach the Children," that as the lost sheep are found by sounds of the bell, so should it ring for men to return to the fold; it means guidance and return; it further signifies that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord." As the soft sound of the bell faded into the night, Santa drew forth a candle. He placed it on the mantle and the soft glow from its tiny flame cast an eerie glow about the darkened room. Odd shapes in the shadow slowly danced and weaved upon the walls.

"Teach the Children," whispered Santa, "that the candle shows man's thanks for the star of long ago. It's small light is the mirror of starlight. At first candles were placed on the Christmas Tree – they were like many glowing stars shining against the dark green. Safety now has removed the candles from the tree and the colored lights have taken over in the remembrance."

Santa turned the small Christmas tree lights on and picked up a gift from under the tree. He pointed to the

large bow ribbon and said, "A bow is placed on a present to remind us of the spirit of the brotherhood of man. We should remember that the bow is tied as men should be tied – all of us together, with the bonds of good will toward each other. Goodwill forever is the message of the bow."

Now I wondered what else Santa had in his bag. Instead of reaching in his bag, he slung it over his shoulder and began to reach up on the Christmas Tree. I thought he was hungry as he reached for a candy cane, purposely placed high on the tree. He unfastened it and reached out toward me with it.

"Teach the Children that the candy cane represents the shepherds crook. The crook on the staff helps bring back the strayed sheep to the fold. The candy cane represents the helping hand we should show at Christmas time. The candy is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."

Santa then paused. He seemed to realize he should be on his way. Later would be his big day. As he looked about the room, a feeling of satisfaction showed in his face. He read wonderment in my eyes and I am sure he sensed my admiration on this night. He was his old self as he approached the front door. The twinkle in his eye gave Santa away; I knew he wasn't through yet. He reached into his bag and brought forth a large holly

wreath. He placed it on the fireplace and said,

"Please Teach the Children the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love; it never ceases, stops or ends. It is one continuous round of affection. The wreath does double duty. It is made of many things and in many colors. It reminds us all of the things of Christmas. Please Teach the Children."

I pondered and wondered and thrilled with delight, as I saw and viewed all those symbols that night. I dozed as I sat in the soft candlelight, and my thoughts were of Santa and all he made right.

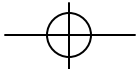
To give and to help, to love and to serve, are the best things of life, all men can deserve. Old Santa Claus that jolly fat little elf, Is the very best symbol of Christmas itself. He's the sign of the gift of love and of life, the ending of evil, the ceasing of strife. His message to me on the pre-Christmas night has opened a treasure of deepest insight.

The one thing on earth we all ought to do, is the teaching of children the right and the true.

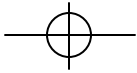
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I thought this was the best Christmas message I've read so I'm passing it on. Happy Holidays

PAX DOMINE  
(The Peace of the Lord)







# Hairbangers Ball spends holiday here

By Spc. George Kyriakeas  
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and airmen on deployment usually expect a few things over the holiday season. They can expect tearful phone conversations, cards in the mail instead of hugs. They usually don't, however, expect to be rocked, and that is exactly what happened at Joint Task Force-Bravo this holiday weekend.

Hairbangers Ball, an 80's cover band focusing on glam rock, played five shows here over the Thanksgiving weekend, starting with the Turkey Bowl.

The band, with lead singer Vic Voxx, guitarists Freddy Fingers and Jefferson Jackson, keyboardist and singer Polly Pantz, bassist Chris Crotch and drummer Zeek Zildjian visited Soto Cano as the first stop on a ten-day tour set up by the Armed Forces Entertainment Network.

Covering everything from Bon Jovi to Ozzy Osbourne, the band took listeners on a ride through the way-back machine to that magical era of American music that was dominated by big hair and big guitar riffs.

"We are a tribute to the decade of decadence," said Pantz. They tackle their genre with much skill, said Staff Sgt. Leonardo Paris, ARFOR. "I thought they played excellent, they were really good," Paris said, adding, "I've been listening to that type of music for 15 years and they're one of the best bands I've seen to perform it."

The band, which hails from Chicago, has been performing together for almost two years, said Pantz. The band tours a lot, generally playing eight or nine shows a month away from home, but this tour is the first time they have played at a military base, she said. "You guys are great, this is probably the most interesting place we'll play," Pantz said. "I have a feeling other bases



Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Zeek Zildjian renders a glam-rock salute at the Oasis Nov. 30. The band played three shows at the club.

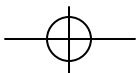


Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

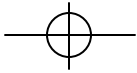


Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Calling 80's rock "hair-metal" is not a misnomer, as guitarist Jefferson Jackson illustrates here.







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# Feature

The IGUANA 5



Polly Pantz favors the crowd with a song while Chris Crotch gets busy with the bass at the Oasis Nov. 30.



Zeek Zildjian provides the beat at the Oasis. All the clothing items that decorate his drumkit were gifts, he said.

will not be as nice and friendly,” she added. Zildjian agrees that the military crowd is a little bit different.

“You guys are loud, but you’re also very respectful. We have a great time doing this,” Zildjian said.

“You’re just as rowdy and loud as anyone else we’ve seen,” Voxx added.

Another reason this tour has some new experiences for the band is that they are not usually away from their families for the thanksgiving holidays, Pantz said.

“It’s not normal for us to be on the road during Thanksgiving, some of us have families,” she said. “It’s an honor for us to be here though, especially over Thanksgiving,” she continued.

Other members of the band agreed.

“It sucks. I don’t like being away from my family for the holidays, but I also wouldn’t rather be anywhere else right now,” Zildjian said. “We’re all in the same boat here. It’s great being here at Soto Cano with you guys.”

“Even though we are not with our families we are having fun. The welcome we’ve gotten here is like coming home to family you have not seen in years,” said Voxx.

Servicemembers also appreciated the chance to spend the holiday with new friends.

“It was a pretty pleasant surprise that we got this treat,” Paris said. “They need to do more things like this for soldiers to help the morale. It’s especially important during the holidays when soldiers are away from their families.”

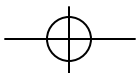
Voxx echoes this sentiment.

“The Hairbangers love America and our troops and would love to come back and play anytime,” he said.

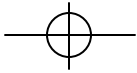
Have a comment or question? E-mail: [George.Kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil](mailto:George.Kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil)



Vic Voxx warms up the crowd before the Turkey Bowl







Taking aim



Photo by Kevin Robertson

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Lockheed Martin test pilot Jim Brown successfully launches a guided AIM-9 Sidewinder missile from an F/A-22 Raptor over White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on Nov. 22. This Raptor mission completes the 2002 flight test criteria set forth by the defense acquisition executive, which outlines the F/A-22 program's flight test priorities. The mission demonstrated the aircraft's ability to fire an AIM-9 at Mach speed using an unmanned, full-scale QF-4 Phantom II aircraft as a target. The F/A-22 was flying at 1.4 Mach at 24,000 feet while the target was traveling at 1.0 Mach at 14,000 feet.**

# President signs defense authorization bill

By Staff Sgt. A. J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- President Bush signed the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act into law Dec. 2 at the Pentagon.

The NDAA authorizes the Department of Defense to spend \$375 billion to continue the transformation of the military to face future challenges and to fight the global war on terrorism.

More than one-fourth of that amount, \$94 billion, will go to support personnel programs and quality-of-life initiatives.

"It sets priorities for our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country," Bush said.

According to the president, the NDAA rewards the service and sacrifice of the nation's military members and their families with higher pay, improved facilities and better housing.

It also ensures servicemembers have the best equipment, the most advanced weapons, supports operations and maintenance, and continues investments in missile defense and new technologies to give America's military every advantage on the battlefields of the future.

"America's military is strong, and that's the way it should be," Bush said. "Our nation and world are safer that way. Now and in the future, we will maintain a military that is second to none."

As part of this year's overall defense budget, the Air Force was authorized \$28.3 billion for the procurement of aircraft, missiles and ammunition; \$33.7 billion in operation and maintenance funds for the active-duty force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard; \$389 million for environmental restoration; \$1.3 billion in military construction; and \$684 million in family housing construction.

The highlights of the bill include:

– Fully funding an across-the-board 4.1 percent mil-

itary pay raise with targeted increases of up to 6.5 percent for mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers.

– Reducing the out-of-pocket housing expenses from the current 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent in fiscal 2003, eventually eliminating the out-of-pocket costs by fiscal 2005.

– Expanding TRICARE Prime Remote benefits to family members who remain at a remote location when they cannot accompany the military member on a new assignment or duty. It also extended these benefits to family members of remotely located air reserve component members when they are ordered to active duty for more than 30 days.

– Extending several special pays and bonuses through December 2003, including enlistment and reenlistment bonuses. It also permits the service secretaries to award an incentive pay of up to \$1,500 per month to military members serving in assignments involving difficult working conditions or undesirable overseas locations.

– Doubling the regular basic allowance for subsistence for single enlisted airmen stationed in remote locations without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility.

– Creating a new payment for all military retirees who were wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart and those who were severely disabled in combat-related incidents. Monthly payments would range from \$103 to \$2,100 each month, depending on the level of disability, and would represent a partial to full offset of the reduction in retired pay required by the current law on concurrent receipt.

– Continuing the existing DOD payment of a special stipend for severely disabled military retirees with a disability rating of 60 percent or higher.

– Allowing service secretaries to grant a one-time leave of absence of up to 14 days to servicemembers

with qualifying emergencies to prevent them from entering into unearned or excessive leave status.

– Reducing the minimum years of service required by reservists before they are eligible to qualify for retirement pay from eight years to six years.

– Extending the number of years members of the selected reserve may use Montgomery GI Bill benefits from 10 to 14 years.

– Authorizing commissary privileges to National Guardsmen who are participating in federally declared national emergencies.

– Providing \$4.6 billion for procurement of 23 F/A-22 Raptor production aircraft and continued Raptor development.

– Increasing the service's unmanned aerial fleet with the procurement of three Global Hawk and 29 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles.

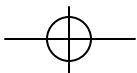
– Providing \$3.7 billion for the purchase of 12 C-17 Globemaster IIIs and to support a multiyear procurement of additional C-17s.

– Funding the procurement of one E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft, one EC-130J and 35 T-6A Texan II Joint Primary Aircraft Training System aircraft.

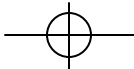
– Authorizing a Korean Defense Service Medal to be issued to military members who served in the theater since July 28, 1954.

"The men and women of our military bring credit to our flag and security to our country," Bush said. "On behalf of the American people, I thank you for all you've done (and) for all you will do in the cause of freedom and the cause of peace."

The annual defense budget comprises two parts -- the appropriations bill, which the president signed on Oct. 23, and the authorization bill. The appropriations bill allocates funds to operate the Defense Department. The authorization bill permits DOD to spend the allocated funds.







December 13, 2002

## SERVICE NEWS

The IGUANA 7

# Army scouting talent for 2003 Soldier Show

By Harriet Rice  
CFSC Public Affairs Officer

ALEXANDRIA, VA – When Spc. Joey Beebe auditioned for the 2001 U.S. Army Soldier Show, he was excited. When he was selected for the cast, the operating room technician never imagined it would lead to a two-year tour of duty.

But it did, and now his mission is to recruit new cast members for the 2003 show.

"We're looking for performers and technicians," said Beebe, who serves as assistant to the show's artistic director, Victor Hurtado.

Audition packages are due by Dec. 31, Beebe said, and need to be mailed to the Soldier Show Selection Committee at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Auditions are not just for singers, Hurtado emphasized.

"I am looking for strong dancers, and I would also like instrumentalists to audition," Beebe said. "I don't know what [talent] is out there unless it comes to my attention."

While the show's primary focus is musical and vocal, all types of talent are welcome and will be considered, he said.

Auditions are open to all soldiers on active duty through December 2003. Reserve-component soldiers may audition; however, if they are selected, they must be activated for the six months' duration of the tour, which runs from April through October.

To be considered, soldier-performers must submit an audition package that consists of, among other items, a videotaped performance showing their talent, an entertainment résumé, a commander's letter of release, their latest evaluation report, and a copy of their most recent Army Physical Fitness Test.

"On the technical side, we not only need lighting engineers and sound engineers, but we are also in need of good leaders with theatrical backgrounds to serve as stage managers and people with experience in construction or electrical work as set builders," said Hurtado.

Soldiers looking for a technical job with the 2003 Soldier Show must also submit a package that contain

the same administrative documents in addition to a technical résumé and a portfolio with references. The same goes for drivers needed for the 44-passenger bus and the 18-wheel tractor trailer that move 20 tons of staging, costumes, lighting and audio equipment.

"Being a part of the Soldier Show is a life-changing experience," said Hurtado, who spent six years of his military career as a performer and technician with the show in the 1990s. "You become part of a rich historical tradition of 'entertainment by the soldier, for the soldier' that began with songwriter Irving Berlin during World War I. You also grow and learn leadership, performance skills, and teamwork."

In January, Hurtado and Beebe, along with Army Entertainment Detachment military staff, will screen the audition packages. A selection committee of civilians and military staff will review the audition tapes, military documents and records, scoring applicants on talent, poise, appearance and stage presence. A group of up to 30 finalists will be selected to audition in person at the finals in late spring.

"Finalists come in for a week to rehearse," said Beebe. "But we also have them set up and take down the 15 tons of staging - that's the unglamorous offstage part of the job, and we need to find out if the soldiers can handle it."

### How to Audition

Auditions are open to all soldiers on active duty through December 2003 and who can meet all active duty requirements. Reserve-component soldiers may also audition. If selected, they must be activated for duration of the tour.

Performers must submit the following items in an audition package: 1/2" VHS Demo Tape, Records Brief, Commander's Letter of Release, Entertainment résumé, DA Photo, 3/4 Length, Latest OER/NCOER and a Copy of most recent Army Physical Fitness Test

#### Technicians must submit:

Portfolio/References  
Records Brief  
Commander's Letter of Release  
Technical Résumé  
PA Photo, 3/4 Length  
Latest OER/NCOER  
Copy of most recent Army Physical Fitness Test

#### Drivers (bus, 18-wheel, van) must submit:

References, copies of licenses, ratings  
Records Brief  
Commander's Letter of Release  
DA Photo, 3/4 Length  
Latest OER/NCOER

Send package to (recommend using tracking):

U.S. Postal Service  
Army Soldier Show  
ATTN: 2003 Selection Committee  
PO Box 439  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Express (overnight) Mail  
U.S. Army Soldier Show  
ATTN: 2003 Selection committee  
6091 Jackson Loop, Building 1434  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

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# Change allows more students to travel free

By Michelle Bard  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Each holiday season, military families stationed overseas turn to the Dependent Student Travel Entitlement to reunite them with children attending college in the United States. Now modifications in the program-to include expanding the types of students-will help more families spend this holiday season together.

The Dependent Student Travel Entitlement, contained under the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, is an 18-year-old program that originally granted undergraduate college students a round-trip commercial flight each fiscal year to visit parents stationed overseas at the government's expense.

Changes in the entitlement this year now allow students attending approved vocational and technical classes and even those attending graduate programs to use the entitlement as well.

"It's more than going to college anymore," said Thomas E. Gray, chief, Transportation Plans and Operations Branch, Total Army Personnel Command and functional proponent for the program. "Regardless of where their kids are going to school, it doesn't hurt to go down...and at least check to see if they're eligible for the entitlement," he said.

There was a big push for change from Gray and other employees, as PERSCOM maintains policy and procedural oversight.

"It was a big heartache for me because a lot of kids don't go to college, but go on to some sort of secondary post-high school education," Gray said.

Gray said the idea did not go over well at first.

"There weren't a lot of people who wanted to hear it, but eventually they heard us out," he said.

Gray said before the program was created in 1984, college students with par-

ents in the Armed Forces overseas were restricted to one flight a year on space-available Air Force flights with destinations limited to common locations like Germany, France and Japan.

Gray and other Army personnel believed army members should have the same entitlement other federal employees had, so the program was born. He said the Army was in for a surprise when it started getting applications for the program.

"I think the Army totally underestimated how many people would go."

Between 2,000 and 2,500 students use the entitlement each year, Gray said.

In addition to travel, the entitlement also allows the student to ship or store up to 350 pounds of unaccompanied baggage.

The Army arranges for the packing, pickup and shipping of the goods to the soldier's duty station overseas and for the return back to the student's residence.

To be eligible for the entitlement:

The student must be under 23 years old and unmarried.

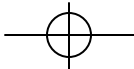
The overseas soldier must be serving a "with dependents" tour and be accompanied by dependents that reside in the area of the duty station.

The student must attend a school in the United States fulltime.

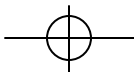
Gray said the earlier soldiers get their applications in, the earlier travel plans can be made, especially if the student wants to travel during the peak travel months from November to January.

"My feeling has always been, when we enlist people in the Army we have this tacit commitment to them, a promise, that we are a family and we take care of our own," Gray said. "And if we don't do that, then we're not filling an obligation that we make as much to the soldiers as we do to their families."

Soldiers or family members who have questions about the dependent student travel entitlement can send them to PERSCOM at ATAC@hoffman.army.mil.







# Army downs Air Force, 18-12

## Victory in closely matched Turkey Bowl gives Army series lead, 3-2



Personnel from both services came out to support their teams for the Turkey Bowl.



Army quarterback Toby Cobbs looks for an open reciever. All points were scored during the first half of the game, with both defenses shutting down offenses in the second half.



The medelette cheerleaders from Medical Element were just a few of the many servicemem-bers who came out to support their services in the game.

Story by Army Spc. George Kyriakeas  
Photos by Air Force 1st Lt. Carla Pampe  
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Office

The Army and Air Force squared off against each other Nov. 27 in the fifth annual Turkey Bowl football game.

Air Force scored early in the first quarter with a passing touchdown to Fire Dawg Carlos Corum from the 10-yard-line after a fourth-down conversion kept their drive alive.

Army answered right back with a fourth-down conversion of their own that led to a TD catch by Wayne Lewis of JSF.

The Army defense stepped up on the next possession with an interception by Lewis, but the Air Force defense flexed its own muscles and forced a turnover on downs to end the Army's drive as well as the first quarter.

Army defense again held strong on the next possession, forcing an Air Force punt.

Army offense then took over, moving the ball downfield with a series of passes that culminated in a TD pass to MEDEL's Nedrick Brooks.

Air Force answered right back with a 40-yard pass to a wide-open Vincent Swanson that set up a passing TD to Josh Turnier that evened the score at 12 apiece.

On the next possession Elijah Gilbert caught Army's third touchdown pass of the night after another successful fourth-down conversion to bring the score to 18-12 in Army's favor.

The Air Force offense drove the ball to the Army 15-yard line on the next possession but the Army defense stopped the drive to hold on to their 6-point lead at the end of the first half of play.

After a half-time show featuring the musical stylings of Hairbangers Ball and raffle drawings with prizes from MWR the teams began a second half of play that showcased their defensive talents.

Trading interceptions on the first two possessions of the half, 1-228's Alec Williams averted disaster for Army with an interception in the endzone to keep their lead of six points.

The game came down to the wire with Air Force mounting a drive on the last possession of the gamethat moved the ball to the Army 27 with 26 seconds on the clock.

The defense prevailed and Army squeaked out of an evenly matched defensive battle with a six point victory.



Photo by Spc. George Kyriakeas

Hairbangers Ball's Polly Pantz and Chris Crotch rock the half-time show. See feature article on pages 4 and 5.

